What Teachers Need To Think About For Language Learning

Ludwig Wittgenstein said, “The limits of my language are the limit of my world. If we spoke a different language, we would perceive a different world.” As cultural exchange between nations has been promoted, learning language becomes very essential in Global Age. As a result, many people have taken language courses to learn languages and they have been concerned about language learning environment. How do teachers make a good language learning environment? I think that there are three necessary things for teachers to do on developing learners’ language skills.

First, all language skills need to be balanced. Although I have studied English more than ten years from elementary school to university, I cannot speak English very well, because what I have studied is only grammar rules. For me, english was not a tool for communication but a subject like a mathematic for the entrance examination. Therefore, I spent a lot of money on taking language courses in other institutions. I would like to say that spending long time for learning language comes to nothing when the language skills are not balanced.

Second, teachers need to check students’ understanding. When I went to ESL program in Chicago, there was a teacher who spoke so fast. He just said without any feedback. He even looked so displeased when some students asked him what he said. He was not passionate to our class. He did just his job from beginning to the end without any communication with students. I sure that he could not raise students’ interest for learning language. He should have asked questions with ICQ’s and CCQ’s. If he did, students could follow him and did a lot of talk.

Third, teachers need to show their respect to students. Teachers should understand the cultural diversity especially in the class gathered by students who come from various countries. When I was in ESL, one of teachers told us his travel story in Italy. He said, when he listened to Italians’ conversation, it sounded like an arguing because of many gestures and firece tone. Then he pointed an Italian student in the class and said “Everyone, try to look at her gestures when she says .” Everyone knew the italian student was an introvert person. She looked like being hurt. She did not speak any word all the day. Another example is related to the point of view. Some American teachers have only the American view on culture. I knew the teacher who went to Japan for travel. She talked to me about Takoyaki which a japanese traditional bread which is inside the grilled octopus. She said that it was shocking to eat bread with seafood and it also could show how much Japanese are barbaric. I told her that Japan is

an island country, so seafood can be related to their traditional dishes. Suddenly, another teacher sitting next to her talked to me about slaying dalphins in Japan. He said that it was so stupid thing to be legal that a lot of dalphins were killed and it could show Japanese barbarism. They all had a stereotype of Asia even though more than fifty percent of their students came from Asia. I believe that teachers have to think about the another view on matters.

To sum up, I think there are three aspects teachers need to think about for teaching language ; all skills for learning language, a lot of feedbacks, and being openminded. I have my best teacher in my life. He did not major in education but he was good at communication with other people. Being open to other people, he listened to others carefully and reacted to them. So I think being enthusiastic is more important than well knowing about education theories.